ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Slavic Library Major Research Source to Many

The Slavic and East European Library is busy year-round, but summer is a particularly busy time for the librarians, support staff and its head, Marianna Tax Choldin.

The Slavic Library of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign has become a major research source in the nation, and today ranks third nationally in the size of the Slavic collection, behind only the Library of Congress and Harvard University. It is, therefore, the largest Slavic collection west of Washington, D.C.

Professor Choldin and her colleagues have been told by many who have used other major research libraries that the UIUC Library has the most efficient Slavic Library they know of because of its large collection, its staff, its reading room and its circulation of materials necessary for research.

The University of Illinois Slavic Library, in room 225, is the only source in North America, even outside Eastern Europe, for many works. Yet thirty years ago the Slavic collection here was ranked only 34th in the nation. By 1969, when Mrs. Choldin came to the University of Illinois, librarians Larry Miller, Dmytro Shtohryn and a growing group of colleagues had been hard at work, and the Slavic collection had become one of the top five in the United States.

When the Soviet Union put Sputnik into space in 1957 it signaled major changes in American academic life. One change was an interest in Russian and Iron Curtain nations' literature.

The rapid buildup of the Library's Russian and East European holdings began in 1958-59, in response to the encouragement of a faculty committee chaired by Ralph T. Fisher Jr., who had just joined the Department of History. From the start this movement received strong support from high administrators, including University Librarian Robert B. Downs and President David D. Henry.

In 1960 that faculty committee established a language-and-area center for Russia and Eastern Europe, and succeeded in getting support from the federal government. The center, directed then as now by Professor Fisher, put most of its federal money into the Library. It did the same with a gift of $300,000 obtained by President Henry in 1961 from Doris Duke—a gift intended to promote all aspects of Russian studies. The combination of federal and private money with large additions of state funds permitted an amazingly fast growth of both staff and holdings in this field.

During the 1960s the Library made two innovations that turned out to be highly productive: In 1963 it created a special Slavic and East European section, bringing together the relevant personnel from the functionally separate departments of acquisitions and cataloging.

In 1969, by which time the Library's Slavic and East European holdings had grown to be among the five largest in the country, the Library provided a special Slavic reading room. This permitted the bringing together of staff, specialized reference materials, and users in a way that is apparently not equaled in this field in any other large library. The Slavic and East European Library became the first unit within the University Library to cover the full range of services, from selecting and purchasing materials, to processing them into the collection, to handling requests for information.

The Slavic Library has a staff of approximately thirty, larger than many entire college library staffs. There are approximately 10 professional librarians,

"Survivors' on Display

The Survivors: An Exhibition of Rare Russian Books is currently on display in the Rare Book Room, and will remain intact until October 5. All Library Friends will receive a copy of the catalog that describes the exhibition.

The Slavic and East European Library is one of the largest and most visible outside the Soviet Union. Among the more than half million volumes are some rare gems, and the current exhibit represents more than one hundred of them. Yet they are almost certainly only a part of the real treasures on the Library shelves that are waiting to be discovered.

Under the direction of Marianna Tax Choldin, head of the Slavic and East European Library, Georgy Durman, a recent emigre from the Soviet Union and a specialist in rare Russian books, undertook the task of searching for special and rare volumes that are in the Library's collection. He was assisted by Alla Barabtarlo, also a recent emigre with experience in the area of rare Russian books. The exhibition is the result of the first phase of the search for hidden Russian treasures.

If what has been found so far is an indication, the Slavic Library's collection must contain many more rare treasures waiting to be found.

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10 LTAs (library technical assistants) and clerical staff, and another 10 to 12 students on an hourly basis. All must have a minimum working knowledge of Russian, but some are conversant in several languages and have higher degrees in the Slavic field.

The Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe is sponsored by the Russian and East European Center and, from its start in 1973, has been a popular attraction for serious scholars of the Slavic area. The 13th Laboratory was held this summer, and drew nearly 250 scholars from all over the world.

An important reason for the popularity of the annual event, in addition to the Library's efficiency as a research facility, is the collegial aspect, for many participants time their visits to coincide with the schedules of colleagues from other colleges and institutions. Those attending may stay for parts or all of the Laboratory, which this year extended from June 10 into early August. A separate Conference on the Ukraine during World War II was held June 5 through 8, and drew slightly fewer than one hundred scholars.

Discussion groups during the Summer Laboratory this year included the topics of Soviet agriculture and rural life; Soviet working class history; women in Central and East European cultures; contemporary Soviet films; and politics and society in Saratov, Russia, during the Revolution of 1917.

Three special workshops, made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, covered these subjects: the uses of architecture in Russian literature of the 18th to 20th centuries; Muslims of Soviet Central Asia; and Soviet archives and manuscript collections. A grant from the Rockefeller Foundation helped fund two seminars on aspects of Soviet international behavior: the role of the military in Soviet strategy, and Soviet treaty compliance.

A special two-week program on the Soviet economy, funded by the Social Science Research Council, was held for young economists. The workshop included Russian-language tutoring (also available for other Laboratory participants this summer).

A Mellon Foundation grant helps to defray the housing expenses of Laboratory participants. The program is also funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education and by the Julia A. Whitney Foundation of New York City, which has helped present a festival of Russian culture during the Laboratory.

An added plus for the Laboratory was provided this year when the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), which specializes in organizing scholarly exchanges with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, contracted to have those going next year for the first time on cultural exchanges come here for intensive language training and/or an intensive orientation session.

To a great extent the Summer Research Laboratory has led to the development of the Slavic Reference Service at the U. of I.

Many who came here maintained their contacts with personnel in the Slavic Library, and began to send requests for information. Now, from 200 to 400 requests come every month by mail, by telephone, or by telex from round the world. Harrison Salisbury of The New York Times is a frequent user of the service and an enthusiastic booster of it. The Central Intelligence Agency is a frequent "customer," and even the executive branch of the federal government, which has the Library of Congress readily available, occasionally seeks help with research.

If the UIUC Slavic Library doesn't have the specific material available, the staff knows where it may be found at other libraries, or from other sources, in North America or Western Europe.

Or, if materials aren't available anywhere in the western world, the Library will use its "exchange partners" in the Soviet Union or in other Eastern European countries. Dr. Choldin pointed out that in those countries western books and periodicals often may not be purchased in the usual way.

Therefore libraries barter with partner-libraries in the West for publications they need, offering native publications in exchange. "Dealing in this way is often slow," Dr. Choldin said, "and it may take up to a year, but an item requested will usually come through eventually because our sources are so cooperative." Upwards of one thousand such requests from Slavic Reference Service users are handled every year through Soviet and East European sources. Older material usually comes in the form of microfilm, which is then loaned to or copied for the requestor. Printed matter may also be loaned or copied, of course. By trading in this way the Slavic Library has become the only western source for many publications.

Why the Scholars Came Here

Why do scholars come to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign every summer for the Summer Research Library on Russia and Eastern Europe?

Doug Clayton of the University of Ottawa, in Ottawa, Canada, said he has come back "three or four times" previously and is attracted primarily by the "materials that I can't get anywhere else" than in the Slavic and Eastern Europe Library at the University Library.

Others echoed the point, while also citing the professionalism and helpfulness of the library staff, the ready access to research material, competent speakers, the scholarly "atmosphere" on the University of Illinois campus, and the housing arrangements.

Young-Sang Yim of Seoul, Korea, was here this summer for the first time, while others have returned frequently over the years since the summer series first began in 1973.
From the Librarian's View

(The following is excerpted from a speech by Librarian Hugh Atkinson before the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a division of the American Library Association.)

My commitment to multi-type networks came about because of the very practical experience that I have had in Illinois and with the existing library systems—ILLINET, the statewide network, and the network of libraries which jointly use the same computer system, LCS. I wasn’t trained to be a proponent of the multi-type network, but rather have become a convert to it. The very positive (and to me, extraordinary) results of these networks have convinced me of their efficiency. We have to remember that it is not necessary for the outcomes, the products and the uses of the networks to be "fair." Rather it must be a system that is valuable to each of the participants.

I frankly don’t care how many items are borrowed from us, except that it should not seriously interfere with the research of our students and faculty. What is important is how many items we can borrow to satisfy the information needs of our students and faculty. I don’t really look for a great amount of balance, and shouldn’t, for I expect we will be a net borrower within the general interlibrary loan network. The fact is that not all the values of the network are the same for each participant.

One kind of small academic library may well depend upon a network to provide a small core of individual faculty members the ability to continue a research commitment, and thus to retain a high-quality faculty. Another, say a community college, may use the same network to provide materials for instruction, or for student use, in areas where only an occasional course is offered, or an experimental program tried out. A larger institution may well count its benefits in the numbers of items borrowed.

We have found that in well over half of the materials we borrow are items we already own but are in fact not immediately available. Also a large portion of the borrowed items are owned by unlikely libraries. The overlap between libraries is less than we had expected, and unique items may be found in almost every kind and every size of library.

I think we are at a time in library history where the amount of activity within networks will grow enormously. The people within the libraries are realizing for the first time that libraries are dependent upon one another, and networking is recognized as not just a nice additional service, but as one of the fundamental parts of library activity.

Three Estate Gifts Will Benefit Library

Three endowments have been announced recently that will be of significant importance to the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign.

All materials purchased with the income from the Library’s endowment funds will be identified with the names of the donors.

Endowment funds are a welcome source of ongoing support, for income from them will be used in future years to enhance the Library’s collections and services. The three most recent estate gifts are as follows:

**Estate of Phyllis Baxter Erwin**
Library Friends member Phyllis Baxter Erwin established, through her estate, an endowment fund to benefit the Rare Book collection. Ms. Erwin, who lived in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University in 1943 and 1965.

**Estate of Evelyn E. Pflaum**
Evelyn E. Pflaum, a Library Friends member from Columbia, Missouri, provided in her will for the establishment of the Barbara Lynn Pflaum Memorial Endowment Fund to honor her daughter. Barbara Pflaum, who died in 1981, received her master’s degree in biology in 1968 from the University of Illinois. The endowment fund will be used for library acquisitions in the natural sciences.

**Estate of Winfield S. and Evalene K. Angus**
The Angus Endowment Fund to benefit the Library was established through the generosity of Winfield S. and Evalene Kramer Angus of Miami, Florida. Income from the fund will benefit the Library’s collections, programs and services. Mrs. Angus earned I.U.C. degrees in 1930 and 1934, while Mr. Angus’ degrees were conferred in 1928 and 1936.

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:
- Special circulation and stack privileges for library materials
- **Friendscript**, the quarterly newsletter
- **Non Solus**, the annual bulletin
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press publications
- The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. There are now over 1400 members of Library Friends.

YES, I/We wish to become members of the U of I LIBRARY FRIENDS

- University Librarian’s Council at UIUC: $5000
- Life: $3000
- Sponsor: $1000
- Benefactor: $1000
- Contributor: $50
- Patron: $500
- Student: $10

Please make your check payable to University of Illinois Foundation/Library Friends, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Name
Address
City
State & Zip

We Need Your Help

You can ensure the UI Library’s continued excellence by:
- telling others about the Library Friends and encouraging them to join
- sending us lists of potential members and contributors
- helping the Library solicit grants from foundations
- obtaining your company’s or organization’s participation in a matching gift program
- passing the information about Library Friends membership on in your newsletter or publications.
Recent Acquisitions

A number of important acquisitions were made in recent months by the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign. They include a celestial globe calculated for the year 1800, the Gottfried Fraenkel collection of early printed music, the Rainer Maria Rilke collection, and a collection of more than 11,000 American and European classical and contemporary music recordings.

A partial list of the new acquisitions, which were purchased entirely or in part with Library Friends funds, is as follows:

Cary’s New Celestial Globe (London, 1800) is the work of the Cary brothers, John and William, famous English cartographers, engravers, globe makers and publishers. They produced celestial and terrestrial globes renowned for their accuracy. It is approximately 12 inches in diameter and includes the inscription, “upwards of 3500 stars selected from the most accurate observations and calculated for the year 1800 with the extent of each constellation precisely defined by M. Gilpin of the Royal Society.” The globe with its original base was purchased with funds from the Library Friends, which also financed the glass cover and will provide a suitable stand for it.

The Gottfried Fraenkel collection of early printed music was purchased this spring through the Library Friends from the late Professor Fraenkel’s two sons, Gideon and Daniel. Professor Fraenkel was a distinguished professor of entomology at the University for many years. The collection is a major one, consisting of approximately 765 musical works published between 1674 and approximately 1920, but mostly between 1750 and 1850. Approximately two-thirds are first or early editions of the works of nine great composers, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Schumann.

The premier item in the Fraenkel collection is Louis Hector Berlioz’s Divo Virgilio Les Troyens, OPERA EN CINQ ACTES, PARoles et Musique de HECTOR BERLIOZ. Particularly rare is Les Troyens, and the copy now stored in the Rare Book Room was the only complete one in private hands—one of only five original copies—and is unique because it contains the printed dedication which was probably bound in later. It contains markings and corrections in Berlioz’s hand.

The Library Friends and Roman E. Farquhar provided the funds to acquire the large and extremely valuable collection of sound recordings from the estate of Edward Kokoefer, who owned a music shop in Champaign for many years. His personal collection contained more than 11,000 classical and contemporary music recordings from the United States and Europe, issued from the late 1920s through the mid-1960s. Many are sealed in their original wrappers, and a large number are limited editions in boxed sets and rare issues no longer available. The entire collection is in the Music Library.

 Acquisition of the approximately 2,000 volumes of the Rainer Maria Rilke collection of the late Dr. Gerhard Mayer of Champaign was made possible by the collective contributions of the Library Friends and Dr. Mayer’s wife, Mrs. Ruth Mayer, and partial contribution from the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library’s German monograph fund. The works by and about Rilke, one of the most prominent German-language lyricists of this century, were collected by Dr. Mayer for twenty years. Now housed in the Rare Book Room, they complement other Rilke materials already owned by the Library.

A few of the sound recordings of the late Edward Kokoefer are shown. They are part of a collection of 11,000 financed jointly by Library Friends and Roman E. Farquhar, which is housed in the Music Library.
New Books Signed by Old Chinese Hands

The Asian Library in the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign is engaged in a special kind of collection—autographed copies of books and plays by the old Chinese masters.

It isn’t an expensive type of collection, even though items are unusually precious and difficult to find. The authors whose signatures William Wong, the Asian Librarian, seeks are those who rose to prominence in the 1920s and 30s after the May 4, 1919, new literary movement and before the long period of turmoil which began with the conflict with Japan in the early 1930s.

It had been decreed that the traditional literary style of China would be modernized as of the 1919 date, and therefore modern Chinese literature is traced back to the “May Fourth” date in 1919. Prior to that benchmark Chinese literature was in the classical style. Since then the literature has been in the colloquial, or modern, style.

Many Chinese writers were very productive during the first two decades of the May Fourth era, but before World War II which was followed by the Civil War in the mid-1940s and subsequent rule by the communist regime dating from 1949, the “cultural revolution,” from 1966 to the late 1970s, further limited cultural and artistic work until the recent downfall of the “Gang of Four,” the radical faction leaders in the Chinese government.

Original works of these prominent authors are no longer available anywhere, but reproductions of their works are now being published in the People’s Republic of China. The staff of the Asian Library is working through a number of sources to obtain their autographed copies. Of special value are those signed by authors featured in Return From Silence: China’s Writers of the May Fourth Tradition, a documentary film consisting of personal interviews with the five most famous writers in the modern era of Chinese literature. The film was made available in 1983 by Chung-Wen Shih, a noted scholar on Chinese literature at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The five authors featured in Return From Silence are:

—Mao T’ung, or Mao Dun, the foremost realist novelist and most influential leader who served as Minister of Culture in the People’s Republic from 1949 to 1965, and was honorary president of the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles until his death in 1981.

—Pa Chin (Ba Jin), the nation’s most prolific writer who succeeded Mao T’ung as leader of the literary circle, and is president of the Writer’s Association, a division of the All-China Federation; he is also president of China Pen Centre, an organization which promotes contact between Chinese and foreign writers, which was established in 1960.

—Ts’ao Yu (Cao Yu), a playwright and president of the Dramatics’ Association, another division of the All-China Federation.

—Ai Ch’ing (Ai Qing), a poet, and Ting Ling (Ding Ling), a woman novelist, who serve as vice presidents of the All-China Federation, and along with Ts’ao Yu, are vice presidents of China Pen Centre.

Ting Ling, known for her vivid descriptions of rebellious youth, was the recipient of the Stalin Prize for Literature in 1951, but was expelled from the Communist Party as a rightist in 1957.

The Asian Library collection includes signed copies of all except Mao T’ung who died in 1981 before an autographed copy of his work could be obtained.

In addition, prominent in the Chinese autographs collection is a signed work of Hu Shih, who died in 1962. Hu Shih, a philosopher, was a leader of the Peking University galaxy of intellectuals and a disciple of John Dewey. His efforts to promote the use of the colloquial or vernacular language in writing sparked the May Fourth movement. He was Chinese ambassador to the United States from 1938 to 1942, and became president of Peking University in 1945. His autographed copy was in the collection of Alfred Kaiming Chiu (1898-1977), first librarian of the Harvard-Yenching Library of Harvard University. Following Chiu’s death, part of his extensive collection came to the Asian Library at the University of Illinois, thanks to a gift by Mrs. Yu Chiu.

English translations of works by the five authors are available in the University Library. All but the poet, Ai Ch’ing, have been subjects of dissertations and monographic studies produced in the United States.

Dr. Wong pursues his collection through correspondence with the writers, personal interviews with them on his trips to China, assistance from book vendors in China, searching through existing collections, searching on the open market for autographed works, and through inviting writers to visit the United States.

The Asian Library, now in its 20th year, has a collection of 250,000 volumes. It collects and regulates books and periodicals in all the Asian and the Middle Eastern languages. It is administratively divided into two major areas: East Asia, which includes the Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages; and South and West Asia, covering languages in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Arabic world. Narinder Aggarwal, an expert on South Asia bibliography, is the Assistant Asian Librarian in charge of South and West Asian Library services.

Celestial globe made in England and calculated for the year 1800 is in the Rare Book Room. It was purchased with Library friends funds.
The University of Illinois collections of Soviet publications in the areas of geology and mathematics are considered the largest outside the Soviet Union. Other science and technology collections are also substantial, but the Slavic Reference Service concentrates on requests for research materials in the social sciences and humanities.

Mrs. Choldin earned her BA and MA degrees in Russian and Slavic languages and literatures, and her doctorate in librarianship, at the University of Chicago. She came to the University in 1969 from Michigan State University where she was the Slavic bibliographer for two years. In 1976 she headed the newly-formed Slavic Reference Service in the UIUC Slavic Library, and in 1980 became research director of the Center and director of the Summer Research Laboratory. She was named head of the Slavic Library in 1982.

"The Russian and East European Center and the University of Illinois have always worked well together," Dr. Choldin said. The Center is a channel for funds and also brings together on-campus individuals who do research in Slavic fields, schedules lectures, distributes a newsletter and a weekly calendar, offers travel assistance, and coordinates various functions. It also counsels students in and about the field.

The University of Illinois, through efforts of both the Center and the Slavic Library, has become the primary source of information for many around the world who seek to learn more about the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

(Quotables from page 2)

The library should be the central focus of any University. Books and journals are the starting point for research in any field. It is impossible to have a first-class University without a first-class library.

Unfortunately, many University administrations in North America have been distracted by buildings, laboratories, and high technology instruments, losing sight of the central vision. They have diverted money away from the library to less basic, more transient objectives.

It is a pleasure to visit Champaign-Urbana where active support from "Friends of the Library" and a succession of wise presidents maintains your library system as one of the very best in North America. Your ownership of Dr. John Richardson's diary, and your generosity in sharing it, allowed me to produce Arctic Ordeal, The Journal of Dr. John Richardson, 1820-22. Reviews have been enthusiastic and the book has gone into a second printing in a remarkably short time since October publication.

Mary Ceibert, who provided years of service to your esteemed Rare Book Room, and who was so helpful to me, was herself a B.A. graduate from the University of Saskatchewan in 1935. Few people have the dedication to work for 50 years after their University graduation!